

### Remarks

Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-18, 20 and 23-32 are pending in the application. Claims 8, 15, 19, 21 and 22 have been canceled hereinabove. Claims 23-32 are newly added.

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10-16, 18, 19, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Harlow et al. (Harlow) (U.S. Patent No. 5,206,901). Of these, claims 1-4, 7, 10-16 and 18 remain pending.

Independent claims 1, 13 and 18 recite that an incoming call may be received at one of a directory number corresponding to a fixed-site device and directory number corresponding to a mobility device. These claims further recite [paraphrasing for conciseness] determining that a busy/no-answer condition exists for the device at which the incoming call is received, and forwarding the incoming call to either the fixed-site device or the mobility device depending on where the incoming call was received.

As described in the present specification, the capability as set forth in the claims is an improvement over prior art call forwarding systems. In such prior art systems, to implement call forwarding a subscriber was assigned a single number to which incoming calls that needed to reach the subscriber were directed. Incoming calls to this single number might then be forwarded, for example, to a subscriber's residential phone or business phone, depending on specific "filters". This system, accordingly, did not preserve useful contextual information that could be obtained from where an incoming call was directed.

The cited reference, Harlow, describes an arrangement that continues to have the foregoing disadvantage of the prior art. In Harlow, a "special directory number" must be dialed, that is recognized as receiving "special call treatment" (col. 4, lines 41-44).

By contrast, in the present invention as claimed, an incoming call may be received at a number for a fixed-site device or a number for a mobility device. If the incoming call is received at the fixed-site device and it is busy or does not answer, the call may be forwarded to the mobility device. On the other hand, If the incoming call is received at the mobility device and it is busy or does not answer, the call may

be forwarded to the fixed-site device. As discussed above, Harlow simply does not disclose this capability. Accordingly, Harlow does not anticipate independent claims 1, 13 and 18, nor the claims dependent thereon. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 10-16 and 18 as anticipated by Harlow is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 6, 9, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harlow. Claim 20 has been canceled. Each of the remaining dependent claims 5, 6, 9, 17 incorporates features of the independent claims demonstrated to be absent from Harlow. Thus, claims 5, 6, 9 and 17 are allowable over Harlow for at least the reasons discussed in connection with the independent claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 6, 9 and 17 as unpatentable over Harlow is respectfully requested.

New claims 23-32 include the features of receiving a request to update a call forward setting from a subscriber, wherein the request is generated on a browser-capable subscriber device connectable to the Internet. These new claims are supported by the present specification at, for example, pages 10 and 11 and Fig. 12. The prior art, including Harlow, is silent as to such a feature and accordingly claims 23-32 are clearly allowable.

In light of the foregoing discussion, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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**VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS MARKED UP TO SHOW CHANGES**

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claims 8, 15, 19, 21 and 22 without prejudice, and amend claims 1, 9, 13, 16-18 and 20 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for forwarding an incoming call addressed to one of a plurality of Directory Numbers belonging to a subscriber, including:

receiving an incoming call at one of a number corresponding to a fixed-site device and a number corresponding to a mobility device [one of a plurality of numbers] belonging to the subscriber;

determining that a busy/no answer condition exists for the [fixed-site] device corresponding to the number at which the incoming call is received;

consulting a call forward setting for subscriber; and

performing a call forwarding action to [a] the mobility device if the busy/no answer condition exists for the fixed-site device, or to the fixed-site device if the busy/no answer condition exists for the mobility device, based upon the call forward setting of the subscriber.

9. (Amended) The method of claim [8] 1, wherein the incoming call is received at a Mobile Switching Center associated with the Directory Number of the subscriber's mobility device, and wherein consulting a call forward setting for the subscriber includes:

sending a request for routing information from the Mobile Switching Center to a Home Location Register storing a subscriber profile; and

receiving routing information from the Home Location Register at the Mobile Switching Center, where the routing information is based upon the subscriber profile stored at the Home Location Register.

13. (Amended) A medium storing instructions adapted to be executed by a processor to perform steps including:

receiving an incoming call directed to one of a number corresponding to a fixed-site device and a number corresponding to a mobility device belonging to the subscriber [, the fixed-site device being identified by a fixed-site Directory Number, which is one of a plurality of Directory Numbers that belong to the subscriber];

depending on whether the incoming call is received at the fixed-site device or at the mobility device, determining that the fixed-site device is either busy, or that there is no answer at the fixed-site device , or that the mobility device is either busy, or that there is no answer at the mobility device;

consulting a subscriber profile that describes how to forward an incoming call for the subscriber; and

forwarding the incoming call to [a subscriber] the mobility device if the fixed-site device is either busy or there is no answer at the fixed-site device, or to the fixed-site device if the mobility device is either busy or if there is no answer at the mobility device, based upon the subscriber profile.

16. (Amended) The medium of claim [15] 13, wherein the instructions are adapted to be executed by a processor in a Mobile Switching Center.

17. (Amended) The medium of claim [15] 13, wherein the forwarding the incoming call to a subscriber includes:

    sending a routing request to a Home Location Register storing a subscriber profile;

    receiving routing information for the call from the Home Location Register based upon the subscriber profile; and

    routing the call in accordance with the routing information received from the Home Location Register.

18. (Amended) An apparatus for forwarding an incoming call to one of a plurality of Directory Numbers belonging to a subscriber, including:

    a processor;

a memory coupled to said processor, said memory storing instructions adapted to be executed by said processor to receive an incoming call sent to one of a Directory Number corresponding to a fixed-site device of the subscriber and a Directory Number corresponding to a mobility device of the subscriber [the subscriber's fixed-site device Directory Number], determine[ing] that a busy/no-answer condition exists for either the device at the fixed-site Directory Number or the mobility device Directory Number depending on whether the incoming call is received at the fixed-site device or at the mobility device, consult a subscriber profile containing call forward information for the subscriber, and forward the call to [a subscriber] the mobility device if the fixed-site device is either busy or there is no answer at the fixed-site device, or to the fixed-site device if the mobility device is either busy or if there is no answer at the mobility device, based upon the subscriber profile information.

20. (Amended) The apparatus of claim [19] 18, wherein the instructions are further adapted to send a request for routing information to a Home Location Register storing the subscriber profile, and to route the call to a fixed-site device in accordance with the routing information.